



## ***Iowa Outdoors***

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

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**April 18, 2006**

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### **LAKE VIEW OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE PARK UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

Changes underway at a popular eastern Iowa ATV park will improve operations and ensure safety for all terrain vehicle operators.

Crews are repairing trails and setting up emergency access on the ‘600 Acres’ area in northeast Johnson County. When reopened, the 147-acre *Lake View Off-Highway Vehicle Park* will be under management of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The DNR has a lease agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which owns the property as part of its Coralville Lake project. Besides trail improvements, the DNR will establish a practice track, provide safety training and will work with a local off highway vehicle (OHV) club that will maintain the park. The reopening is set for April 24, weather permitting.

Funding for the work, and for future management, comes from registration fees paid by OHV owners. Lake View OHV Park is scheduled to reopen April 24, as a designated all terrain vehicle area. It is located on Sandy Beach Road NE, adjacent to

Johnson County Highway F-12, four miles south of Ely. Full size vehicles will no longer be allowed and OHV operators on the area will adhere to posted safety rules.

“The park had deteriorated to the point that it was unsafe. The Corps had limited resources for improvements,” explained David Downing, Snowmobile and ATV programs manager for the DNR. “Lack of maintenance, equipment and the use of full-size vehicles in the area created environmental damage and a dangerous mix of traffic, with all the smaller vehicles. By designating it an ‘All Terrain Vehicle Riding Area’ and creating the management lease program, the park is now eligible for funding from the ATV registration fund.”

While restricting full size vehicles will affect some users, it should improve safety and recreation for 60,000 registered OHV owners in Iowa. “It comes down to the safety of those who are paying for the park,” emphasized Downing. “We want people to know we are serious about vehicle safety and compliance with the rules. We want to see Lake View OHV Park as a safe area for family recreation.” Also, liability insurance on the area covers only registered off highway vehicles.

Future use will be limited to off road vehicles as defined by Iowa Code, Chapter 3211. That definition is found on the Iowa DNR website ([www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)). Law enforcement will be provided by DNR conservation and ATV officers. Regulations will include proper registration, helmets for all operators. Operators under 18 must hold a valid safety certificate. No person under 12 can operate an ATV in the park. Full regulations will be posted as the park reopens.

Maintenance will be overseen by the local Dirt Surfers OHV club. “We will be keeping trees trimmed, filling ruts; picking up debris on the trails; keeping them safe for riding,” says Dirt Surfers club president Larry Rolfson. The Dirt Surfers have 73 members from the Quad Cities to Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Williamsburg. The state off highway vehicle association website, [www.iowaohv.com](http://www.iowaohv.com) contains information on local clubs, riding areas, registration and other off road details.

The Dirt Surfers plan a clean up day May 20 at the new off road park. Volunteers can also look through the improvements in the new off-road park and have questions answered about operations.

**For more information, contact Downing at 515-281-3449.**

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## **THIRD ANNUAL RINGGOLD COUNTY PRAIRIE CHICKEN DAY**

KELLERTON - Eerie, mournful, and haunting -- the booming call of the greater prairie chicken is like no other. The resonate hollow sound is completely indescribable.

Once heard, it is never forgotten and will forever play in your mind.

On April 22, Ringgold County Prairie Chicken Day will begin before sunrise and the public is invited to watch the prairie chickens boom and dance in person at the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources wildlife personnel will be on hand to offer insights of the prairie chicken's unusual spring ritual.

There will be spotting scopes available, as well as coffee and doughnuts. Viewing will continue from before dawn until birds leave the booming grounds -- usually by 9:30 a.m. Following that, the public is welcome to view other grasslands bird life or assist area management biologists as they plant native prairie seed.

This is a great opportunity to connect with southern Iowa birding and prairie experiences, said Micah Lee, DNR wildlife technician stationed at the Mount Ayr Wildlife Unit.

"Only the dominant males are allowed to occupy the center of the lek [booming ground]. That's where the females will come," Lee said. "This is such a unique opportunity. Here is a public area where anyone can come and be virtually guaranteed of seeing wild prairie chickens on a spring booming ground. We're very fortunate to have this."

The Third Annual Prairie Chicken Day begins at the area's viewing stand, located 2 miles west of Kellerton on Highway 2 and one mile south on 300th Ave.

For more information, contact Lee 641-464-2389, Chad Paup 641-464-2220 or Pat Schlarbaum 515-432-2823.

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[Electronic photos available]

## **DNR NETTING EFFORT FILLS STATE WALLEYE HATCHERY**

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

DES MOINES--For DNR hatchery workers, this spring's walleye run has already come and gone. Nets have been set, adult brood fish captured, millions of eggs collected.

Those impressive adult walleyes have already been returned to their home waters. All those precious eggs, however, have stayed behind and are now under the watchful eye of DNR biologists located at the Rathbun and Spirit Lake State Fish Hatcheries.

According to DNR Fish Culture Supervisor, Mike Mason, those incubating eggs will begin hatching into millions of tiny walleye fry within the next week to ten days.

The majority of those future lunkers will be immediately distributed to public waters across the state. A smaller number of those fry will stay behind to inhabit the protected environment of DNR nursery lakes until late September when they will be stocked as larger fingerlings.

"Statewide, it was a very good [walleye] spawning run this spring," said Mason. "Weather conditions were pretty good and fish came quickly. Statewide, our target is to hatch 110 million walleye eggs. This spring we collected around 145 million eggs which is about a ten to 15 percent increase over last year.

"Overall, this spring's spawning run was slightly above average and should provide all the fish we need to meet statewide requests," said Mason. "Rathbun led the pack this spring and was easily our most improved hatchery. They handled 770 female walleyes which was 250 more than last year. That increase allowed Rathbun to collect 77 million eggs."

Spawning walleyes were also collected at Spirit Lake, Storm Lake, and Clear Lake. About one third of the state's total egg collection occurred from a satellite netting operation located at Clear Lake.

"It was a very good spring at Clear Lake," said DNR [North Iowa] district fisheries biologist, Jim Wahl. "We hit the spawn at its peak and handled nearly 1,800 walleyes here and collected 425 quarts [60 million] of eggs during seven nights of netting.

"This year, some of the biggest female walleyes ran up to 28 inches in length," said Wahl. "The biggest fish netted was a 30-inch, ten-pounder. But the majority of our brood fish were females in the 20 to 26-inch range, which averaged around five pounds. We netted a good variety of fish, and those walleyes are in the prime of their life which is very good news for the long term future of our netting operations here at Clear Lake."

"Satellite egg collections located at Clear Lake and Storm Lake are providing benefits to anglers across the entire state," said Mason. "The eggs collected at those stations allow us to fill our state hatcheries quickly. The additional data we collect allows biologists to make better decisions regarding long term walleye management."

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## **GIVE "THANKS" BY VOLUNTEERING THIS EARTH DAY**

DES MOINES — From the beauty of a sunset to the excitement of a cross-country ski trip, nature provides countless year-round gifts. This weekend, take the opportunity to give something back by volunteering on Earth Day.

Keepers of the Land, the volunteer program within the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), encourages all Iowans to volunteer on public land as part of the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Day celebration (Saturday, April 22). Opportunities include:

- The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Statewide Prairie Rescue: During this two-month-long series of events, volunteers help preserve remnant and recovered prairie. Rescues occur throughout April and in early May, with several events planned for Earth Day. Visit [www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/pr06.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/pr06.html) for details.
- State Parks: Contact a state park and find out how you can help preserve, protect or enhance one of these beloved natural gems. Many parks need extra help maintaining grounds, painting buildings and completing other vital work.
- Your events: Organize a neighborhood cleanup, a recycling drive or a community education program. Keepers of the Land relies on local organizers to make things happen. All it takes is an idea and a desire to do good work.
- Just help out: Visit a plot of county, state or locally governed land and pick up trash. Clean up your favorite local stream. It doesn't take a huge event to show your appreciation for the environment — just the desire to help.

Happy Earth Day and keep doing good work — this Saturday and beyond. Visit [www.keepersoftheland.org](http://www.keepersoftheland.org) to find out about other volunteer opportunities occurring year-round. Remember: every day is Earth Day.

**For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at [Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Merry.Rankin@dnr.state.ia.us).**

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## **IOWA DNR AWARDS 31 COMMUNITY TREE-PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE GRANTS**

DES MOINES — Thirty-one community organizations and governments were selected to receive Community Improvement through Healthy Trees grants from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry Bureau. The grants will provide between \$500 and \$1,500 in matching funds for use in purchasing and planting trees on publicly owned property, and conducting tree maintenance projects in Iowa communities.

Approximately \$39,000 of USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry and DNR Trees for Kids program funds are being provided for the grants. Recipients will be required to document project expenditures equal to or exceeding the amount of the grant. Many projects will be utilizing volunteer involvement, and will be taking place in parks,

schools, and other high-use areas. Tree planting projects will be completed by June 30, and maintenance projects will be completed by Sept. 1.

The following communities were selected from 55 entries to receive the grants: Allison, Atlantic, Clear Lake, Clinton, Creston, Davenport, Des Moines, Donnellson, Grinnell, Jesup, Keystone, Mapleton, Marion, Monroe, Mount Vernon, Moville, Muscatine, Nevada, Newton, Oskaloosa, Polk City, Red Oak, Shenandoah (City of Shenandoah), Shenandoah (Shenandoah Community Schools), Sioux City, Spencer, Story City, Van Horne, Waterloo, Waverly, and Woodward.

For more information, please contact Matt Brewer, Forestry Volunteer Coordinator at 515-242-6892 or [Matt.Brewer@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Matt.Brewer@dnr.state.ia.us).

**For more information, contact Matt Brewer at 515-242-6892.**

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[electronic photo available]

## **SPRING TURKEY HUNT AS GOOD AS IT GETS**

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Fifty-degree temperatures, cloudless sky, calm wind. The absolute perfect conditions for a spring turkey hunt.

Chomping at the bit, I was even more excited than usual as I slowly picked my way through the predawn timber. While scouting the previous afternoon, I watched as a jake and one mature tom had followed four hens to their sunset roost. With the approaching dawn less than an hour away, the birds had to be close by.

Taking my best guess as to where the birds might be, I stalked as close as I dared and then cautiously crawled out to place three hen decoys in the picked bean field that bordered the woods. After that, I quickly set the portable blind and crawled inside. After situating the calls and knocking an arrow on my bowstring, there was nothing left to do but wait.

As darkness slowly gave way to light, the woodland literally came alive with bird sounds. The din included everything except, of course, the sound of wild turkeys.

It was nearly 6 a.m. when I finally heard the song I craved --- the primitive staccato rattle of a spring gobbler. A minute later the turkey sounded off again and the show was on. The frequency increased until the tom was soon gobbling at the rate of at least three or four times per minute. The jake remained silent.

It was getting much lighter now, and I soon began to hear the soft clucks and

purrs of waking hens. Unfortunately, all of the birds --- including the gobbling tom --- were much farther away than I had hoped. My best chance for success, I quickly surmised, would be to get everyone's attention before the birds left the tree.

Grasping my favorite box call, I began to emit a series of soft tree yelps. Hand-crafted from native woods by Moscow, Iowa's Robert Kirkman, the call almost sounds more like a wild turkey than the bird itself. The hens agreed with that assessment and were soon talking back. I quickly increased the tempo and volume. The hens followed suit. As I continued to communicate, I added a diaphragm call to the mix. I concluded with an excited cackle that I hoped would convince the birds that one or more hens [me] were now on the ground.

The ruse worked. Emitting some excited cackles of their own, two hens immediately launched and came flying through the oaks. The huge birds glided to a bean stubble landing about 70 yards distant. Standing at full attention they sized up the decoys with obvious suspicion.

Grabbing the box call again, I sounded some soft yelps. The hens relaxed and began to walk my way. The remaining pair of hens flew down to join the party.

The gobbler was in a frenzy now, his resonate rattling drowning all other sounds. The tom sailed down and lit near where the hens had assembled. The jake soon appeared, already on the ground when I spotted him.

I stepped up the calling. All four hens marched in and soon stood at ten paces, lounging in the decoys. Next came the jake. The gobbler never budged. He just stood there at 70 yards or so, fanning his tail and strutting his finery in hopes of impressing the hens.

The hens seemed content to remain in the decoys. The tom finally gave in, and began a reluctant, side-stepping approach. He closed the distance until I could clearly hear his stiff wing tips rake the hard ground.

As the magnificent tom approached, the hens decided to move on. It would have been nice to allow the show continue, but I knew the retreating flock would soon lure the gobbler beyond range. Bringing the bow to full draw, I released the arrow.

The tom weighed 26 pounds, had a ten-inch beard, and sported needle-sharp, one-inch spurs. The hunt was both short and sweet. The gobbler had been bagged less than five minutes from when he hit the ground.

The majority of my turkey hunts do not go as planned. This one did, and I'll be remembering this morning for a long time to come.

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## **PRAIRIE RESCUE 2006 COMES TO BIG CREEK, CEDAR BLUFFS**

DES MOINES – Prairie Rescue 2006 continues with two events planned for April 29. Join other volunteers as they help save prairies while celebrating “Aldo Leopold Month.”

The April 29 events occur on two plots of publicly owned land:

- **Big Creek State Park:** Volunteers should meet at 9 a.m. at beach shelter one at the park (located two miles north of Polk City on Hwy. 415). The workday will include cutting brush, treating tree stumps, planting and mulching trees, picking up trash and painting picnic tables.
- **Cedar Bluffs State Preserve:** Volunteers should meet at 12 p.m. for this “Earth Day Savanna Rescue.” The work area is located near Beacon, Iowa. Volunteers will help clear out invasive trees and thorny shrub species.

Both events are part of the seventh annual Iowa Statewide Prairie Rescue, a series of volunteer efforts to revitalize Iowa’s endangered prairie habitat. Rescues occur throughout April and in early May.

In addition to next weekend’s events, look for several rescues yet to occur this week — on April 20 and 22. Visit [www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/pr06.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/pr06.html) for details about these and other events.

This year, the rescues commemorate Aldo Leopold, who advocated public understanding and protection of the environment. Governor Tom Vilsack recently signed a proclamation making April “Aldo Leopold Month.”

Prairie rescues give volunteers the chance to protect what remains of Iowa’s beautiful prairie habitat. Native grasslands once covered 70-percent of the state but has been reduced to 0.1-percent of their original size. The remnants, scattered in small patches throughout the state, now require professional and volunteer assistance to survive.

**For more information, contact Sarah West at [Sarah.West@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Sarah.West@dnr.state.ia.us) or at (515) 281- 6271 or Cathy Engstrom at [cengstrom@inhf.org](mailto:cengstrom@inhf.org) or at (515) 288-1846.**

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## **STILL TIME TO GET TREE AND SHRUB SEEDLINGS**

AMES - Although spring is quickly progressing, there is still time to order trees and shrubs for reforestation, wildlife habitat or to control soil erosion on your acreage or farm. The recent rains are creating favorable planting conditions. Planting success is best if completed by mid to late May so there is still time to order conservation trees and shrubs.

“We have excellent supplies at the State Forest Nursery of native red, white, bur and swamp oak, silver maple, dogwood, wild plum and many other species for this spring’s planting season,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau. These native trees and shrubs are adapted to Iowa’s extremes in weather, to Iowa’s soils and provide superior wildlife habitat.

State Forest Nursery conservation trees and shrubs are for sale at the cost of production. Prices range from \$25 per 100 plants for evergreen species such as white pine to \$45 per 100 for hardwood trees and shrubs like the oaks and redosier dogwood. The minimum order is 500 plants.

“If you are new at conservation plantings or if 500 plants is too many, try our smaller Create Your Own packet of 200 plants that will cover about one-quarter to one-half acre of land. For those with a large backyard consider trying our Song Bird Packet of 20 trees and shrubs for \$20, with shipping to your door being included,” said Walkowiak.

The Create Your Own packet allows the individual to select up to four different species in units of 50 plants for \$90 plus \$10 shipping.

For more information or to order conservation trees and shrubs, call 1-800-865-2477 or [www.iowatreeplanting.com](http://www.iowatreeplanting.com).

**For more information, contact John Walkowiak, 515 242-5966**  
[john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us)

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## ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of April 18, 2006**

**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

**For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.**

## **Southwest**

**Don Williams** (Boone): Anglers are finding some activity for crappie and bluegill, but overall fishing has been slow.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Crappie fishing has been slow to fair using worms and bobbers. Bluegill fishing has been slow. Largemouth bass fishing is picking up particularly around rocky areas.

**Big Creek** (Polk): Crappie fishing has been slow to fair using jigs and minnows with the better areas near the dam and in the east arm of the lake. Anglers reported catching smaller walleye with jigs and minnows, as well as some nicer size fish.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): Fishing is fair for 8 to 9-inch crappie using jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing is fair although most fish are on the small side. Several walleye have been reported, with some over 15 inches, and largemouth bass fishing has been slow to fair along the rocky areas.

**Below Saylorville Dam** (Polk): White bass/wiper and walleye fishing have been good using jigs and/or minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been good in the river and in the tailwater ponds using minnows and night crawlers. Crappie fishing has been good in the tailwater ponds with jigs and minnows.

**Below Lake Red Rock** (Marion): Fishing is fair for white bass and walleye using jigs in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has picked up and anglers are catching some nice fish.

**Lake Ahquabi** (Warren): Crappie fishing is starting to pick up. Bluegill fishing has been slow to fair, with activity around the fishing house. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair, although most of the fish caught are below the legal length limit.

**Hooper Lake** (Warren): Crappie fishing is slow to fair with jigs and minnows. Bluegill fishing is picking up, but is still slow to fair. Largemouth bass fishing is best along the rocky dam area.

**Farm Ponds:** Bluegills are good on night crawlers in 3 to 5 feet of water.

**Green Valley** (Union): Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers and dead minnows in shallow warm coves. Some crappie can be caught from shore and over deep cover on jigs and minnows.

**Three Mile** (Union): Channel catfish fishing is good using shad in the upper half of the lake in warm coves. Bluegill and crappie can be caught in 6 to 10 feet of water over cover.

**West Lenox** (Taylor): Crappie can be caught from shore in 5 to 8 feet of water using small jigs or night crawlers

**Icaria** (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds can be caught with night crawlers in the shallows.

**Binder Reservoir** (Adams): Channel catfish up to 2 ½ pounds can be caught in the coves and the upper end using night crawlers.

**Orient** (Adair): Fishing is good for 2 to 3 pound channel catfish and for 1 to 2 pound bullheads all on night crawlers.

**Anita** (Cass): The lake is still 5 feet low and has limited shoreline access. The lake contains a good fish population and fishing should be good.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Wiper fishing is fair on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Walleye fishing has slowed. Crappie fishing is starting to pick up in lagoon area. Largemouth bass are being picked up on the west side of lake.

**Prairie Rose (Shelby):** Crappie fishing is fair using jigs and minnows on the upper end of the lake.

**For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19:** The water temperatures at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 60 degrees and the river pool stage for Pool 16 is 12.64 feet. Water levels are expected to rise slightly over the next several days. Fishing has been fair for walleye and sauger on jigs tipped with minnows in the tailwaters below dams 15 to 19. Anglers report channel catfish fishing has been good in the backwaters on worms and shad guts. Catfishing has also been good to fair in the mouths of tributary rivers and streams. White bass fishing has been fair on jigs, spinners and minnows. Crappie fishing has been fair in the backwaters. Anglers are also picking up a few bluegills in the backwaters.

**Lake Darling (Washington):** Water temperature is in the upper 50s. Anglers are picking up a few catfish along the rocky shorelines. Although the water temperatures are right for the crappies to be in to shore, it is still too early for them to spawn. Look for them to be staging in the habitat along the creek channel.

**Lake Odessa (Louisa):** Anglers are catching bluegills in shallow water around the trees. Catfishing is also good along the sandy shorelines as the water warms during the day.

**Lake Geode (Henry):** Bluegills are biting in the shallow water on the upper end and in the bays. Catfish are working the riprap along the dam looking for crayfish and small bluegills.

**Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk):** Bluegill fishing is excellent in four to five feet of water using small pieces of night crawler or garden worms. Anglers are also picking up some nice catfish while fishing for bluegills. Bass anglers should concentrate on the upper end of the lake around the habitat and the creek channel.

**Lake Rathbun (Appanoose):** Crappies have been hitting small jigs fished around submerged structure in 10 to 15 feet of water. A jig and minnow combination has also been productive in the same areas. Channel catfish have been biting on shad sides and night crawlers.

**Lake Sugema (Van Buren):** Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations. Bluegills and crappies have been hitting on small jigs and spinners. Walleyes have been hitting on crankbaits fished around shoreline riprap, with evening being the most productive time.

**Lake Wapello (Davis):** Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations. Crappies have been biting on minnows and jigs combinations fished around points and underwater structures.

**Lake Macbride (Johnson):** Anglers are having good success with crappies from shore and from boats. Jig and minnows and minnows under bobbers are working well. The causeway and brush piles are the hotspots. Stick to depths of less than 15 feet.

**Diamond Lake (Poweshiek):** Crappies, bluegill and redears are all being caught from shore and from boats. Small jigs are working for all three species.

**Lake Iowa (Iowa):** Small bass are being caught in good numbers here. Try a variety of artificial lures around structure. Keep in mind the 15-inch minimum size limit.

**Hannan Lake** (Benton): Bluegills are being caught in deeper water on night crawlers. Largemouth bass of all sizes are also being caught. Crankbaits seem to be working best for the bass.

**Coralville Reservoir** (Johnson): Channel catfish are still biting on shad fillets and guts. Stick to the shallow upper areas of the lake for best results. Beware of the EXTREMELY shallow areas due to low water conditions.

**Skunk River** (Washington and Henry): Catfishing remains good. Concentrate at the mouths of the feeder creeks.

**Iowa River** (Washington and Louisa): Anglers are doing well on catfish using shad guts and minnows.

Area **farm ponds** have been yielding some nice catches of bluegill and largemouth bass. Small jigs fished around the shoreline can produce some nice catches of bluegills. Use spinner baits and jigs for the largemouth bass.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15:** Water levels on the Mississippi River are high. River stage at Guttenberg is 12.5 and is expected to crest at 12.7 by Wednesday. Water temperature at Guttenberg is 46 degrees and the gates are still out at lock and dam 10. High water over the past week has slowed fishing, but many anglers are catching bluegill and yellow perch at the new DNR boat ramp in Guttenberg (**Pool 10**) and also near the spillway in Lansing (**Pool 9**). Walleye and sauger are reaching the end of their spawn, but a few nice sauger are being caught in the pocket on the Wisconsin side of the tailwaters at Guttenberg (**Pool 10**). The water at Bellevue is 49 degrees and river stage is more than 13 feet, turbid with floating debris and on a slow rise. With the high water, boaters are cautioned to look out for floating debris.

**Cedar, Maquoketa, Turkey, Upper Iowa, and the Wapsipinicon rivers:** River levels are still high, but conditions should rapidly improve throughout the week.

**Big Woods Lake** (Black Hawk): Anglers are catching a few crappies and bluegills fishing wax worms under a bobber.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): A few bass were caught over the weekend. Fishing will improve along the shore for panfish throughout the week as the water warms.

**Volga Lake** (Fayette): Crappies are starting to bite on small minnows and wax worms.

**Trout** streams are running clear and fishing is good to excellent. Caddis fly hatches were occurring over the weekend so try to match your fly to the hatch. Stocking information for specific streams can be found on the web at by going through the DNR web site at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) or directly to <http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/stockrep/groupstock.pdf>. Anglers may also call the recorded trout stocking information hotline at 563-927-5736.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

## **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Anglers are starting to see black crappies at the North Grade. Fish close to shore on calm sunny days. Bullhead action should start soon at the North Grade using night crawlers. Look for smallmouth bass around the shallow rock piles. Fishing is best after a few sunny, warm days.

**West Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Anglers are catching bluegills and crappies in the canals and at Triboji using mini-jigs or minnows.

**East Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Target channel catfish now, in what is traditionally the best time of year to fish channel catfish at East Okoboji. Fish on the bottom. The best action takes place at night but do not ignore the daytime bite.

**Center Lake** (Dickinson): Anglers are catching a few walleyes fishing the south shore.

**Little Spirit Lake** – Iowa side (Dickinson): The bullhead action is starting to pick up at the north end. There have been some huge fish caught.

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye action is just beginning. Use white twisters or minnow imitating crankbaits. There are good numbers of large channel catfish in Silver and right now is a good time to catch them.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing is fair. The walleye spawn is coming to an end with water temperatures in the 50s. Male walleyes are still on shallow rocky shorelines and are most aggressive in the mornings and evenings. Use a jig tipped with a minnow. Yellow bass fishing has been good. Fish around McIntosh Woods, the Island, Dodge's Point and the north shore rush beds. Use small jigs, minnows or cut bait for the best action. White bass are also being caught while fishing for yellow bass. Bullhead fishing is good at the Ventura Grade.

**Rice Lake** (Winnebago): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the bottom.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

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